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COLONIALISM IS DEAD

Exports From "Bizonia"

Frankfurt, Feb. 3.—The combined Anglo-American zone expected £105,000,000 worth of goods since the end of the war in 1945, according to official figures issued here today.

The following is an analysis: 1945—£20,525,000, 97 percent coal. 1946—£28,000,000, 77 percent coal. 1947—£55,500,000, 55 percent coal.

The main recipient of German exports was Europe, with 96 percent of the total.—Reuter.

Hitler To Be Tried "In Absentia"

Berlin, Feb. 3.—Hitler and his wife, Eva Braun, are to be tried "in absentia" before a Munich denazification tribunal, it was disclosed here tonight.

Though they were reported to have committed suicide in the air raid bunker of the Reich's Chancellery on April 29, 1945, their bodies have not been found.

Delayed action proceedings are being taken to clarify the position of their estates, according to an American Military Government legal expert.

"If the charges against them are upheld, then the tribunal can order all their property to be handed over to the State to be used as reparations."

Several other top-ranking war criminals will appear on the same charge sheet, including Hermann Goerring, the Luftwaffe chief who committed suicide shortly before he was due to be executed, and others who were hanged at Nuremberg or sentenced to prison sentences.

BIG JEWELLERY ROBBERY

Asco, Feb. 3.—Jewellery valued at £20,000 has been stolen from Sunningdale Park, near Egham, Surrey, where £20,000 worth of jewellery was stolen from the Duchess of Windsor in October, 1946.

The jewellery is understood to belong to Miss Marjorie Cunliffe-Owen, a relative of the late Sir Hugo Cunliffe-Owen, the aircraft and tobacco magnate, who died in December.

Miss Cunliffe-Owen was out when the thieves entered her bedroom. Detectives found evidence that the robbery had been carefully planned—probably over some weeks in advance. Nobody heard the thieves at work.—Reuter.

EDITORIAL

Impediment To Rescue Work

TWO accidents involving substantial loss of life have occurred in the space of four days, and both contain features which call for investigation. An inquiry has been ordered into the Kwongtung disaster which, the public is entitled to expect, will probe not only the cause of the fire which sent passengers panicking, but what, if any safety precautions were available in the event of an emergency. The collapse of a building in Queen's Road East on Monday night, which buried and killed ten people presents a distinctive problem. Chief apprehension is created by the admission that rescue operations had to be abandoned four hours after the collapse, and not resumed again until dawn the following day, because the PWD was unable to obtain sufficient artificial light for night operations. The decision which the responsible PWD official had to make to call off the rescue work was probably as distasteful to him, as it was grave. Undoubtedly removal of the debris could not be continued in darkness, for the rest of the building gave all the appearance of collapsing, and the rescue workers would, themselves have been seriously endangered. It is also a fact that operations were impeded by the manner in which the debris had spread itself across the main approach to the wrecked building. These are factors which,

Queen Wilhelmina's Broadcast

The Hague, Feb. 3.—Queen Wilhelmina, broadcasting tonight to Holland's wartime allies about the new Indonesia and its place in the Dutch Commonwealth, said: "Colonialism is dead."

She added: "The people of our Commonwealth have reached a memorable point. A free Federated Indonesia is about to take its place among the democratic nations of the world."

Queen Wilhelmina said a pattern of the United States of Indonesia, forming a union with the Kingdom of The Netherlands, Surinam and the Antilles, was rapidly taking shape.

She added that common man was still far from being free from fear and want in these parts of Indonesia where formerly an all-consuming, non-laudable, pillage and arson. The powers of anarchy and disorder will be overcome because the Indonesian peoples are determined to take up the responsibility and obligations of a democratic self-government.

PATTERN FOR ASIA?
 "It may well be that the solution being reached in Indonesia will set the pattern for solution in wider parts of Asia."

Addressed with many wishes of the earth, the United States of Indonesia can take a great share in the common fight against famine and need."

Queen Wilhelmina declared: "Seven years ago, when Holland was under Nazi oppression, I announced to my countrymen the intention to establish a new relationship between The Netherlands and the other parts of our Commonwealth."

"A year later, in the midst of the war, an outline of the new relationship was traced. Today this partnership is a living reality, rapidly taking final shape: the United States of Indonesia, forming a union with the Kingdom of The Netherlands, Surinam and the Antilles."

PERMANENT EXPRESSION
 Queen Wilhelmina continued: "In the darkest period of the war, the great President, my unforgettable friend, together with Britain, valued champion for freedom, found a permanent expression for our common purpose, which reached out beyond the immediate aim of each country's independence."

"We were to make the world free from fear and free from want; to make it a place where man would be free to worship God in his own way and free to speak his mind."

"It makes me happy that men in Indonesia and here have found the wisdom and the skill to create forms of government that will guarantee to many millions of people all the freedoms and the rights for which

(Continued on Page 4)

The "Divine" MacArthur

Wellington, Feb. 3.—General Douglas MacArthur, the Supreme Allied Commander in the Pacific, had assumed the divinity renounced by the Japanese Emperor, Brigadier R. H. Quilliam, chief New Zealand prosecutor at the Japanese war trials in Tokyo, declared today.

In a speech to the Rotary Club on his return from the trials, Brigadier Quilliam said: "The Emperor has renounced his divinity. It has been taken by General MacArthur."

"He has surrounded himself with a staff which I think is most incompetent for the job they are doing. They might be excellent soldiers, but as civil administrators, they are hopeless."

They comprised the most rigid example of officialdom he had had the misfortune to deal with, he said.—Reuter.

Lords To Throw Out Reform Bill

London, Feb. 3.—The Conservative-dominated House of Lords will tomorrow throw out the Labour Government's Bill to cut to one year the peers' powers of delaying legislation unless in the interval the Cabinet offers certain concessions.

The Government was tonight considering an Opposition proposal made in the debate today, for immediately convening an inter-party conference to consider the controversial issues raised by the Bill.

Lord Addison, Lord Privy Seal, promised to give the Government's reply tomorrow.

The House of Lords today seemed disposed to accept the Government's offer of immediate all-party talks on general reform of the House of Lords, provided the bill was either passed or rejected before the end of this session.

But they were suspicious of what they described as an "ambiguity" in the Government's offer. They feared that under the Government's proposed terms of reference for the conference, the House of Lords power to veto might go by default.

OPPOSITION PROPOSAL
 In the House of Lords tonight, the Opposition leader, Lord Salisbury, urged Lord Addison to accept a formula that would remove this alleged ambiguity.

He proposed the adjournment of the debate and an immediate inter-party conference.

This proposal would be contingent on two understandings: 1.—that the discussions on the House of Lords powers should not extend to those they already have; 2.—that the discussions be limited to ensuring a reasonable time for the consideration of measures by the House of Lords for Parliamentary discussion of the differences between the House of Lords and the House of Commons and for the provision of a period of delay if the two Houses differed.

The House of Commons tomorrow, the Parliament Bill, which is designed to ensure the nationalisation of the iron and steel industry within two years.

GOVT'S DILEMMA
 This is the maximum period the House of Lords can delay a measure sent from the House of Commons.

If the Government rejects further consideration of measures by the House of Lords until yesterday, but that an earlier Opposition proposal could be considered, will again be adjourned, and for the moment the Parliament Bill will escape defeat.

If the Government refuses further concessions, the House of Lords will doubtless carry their opposition to a vote, which must result in the throwing out of the Bill.

The Bill is at present being discussed on the second reading with the Government asking for approval in principle.

The debate was adjourned until tomorrow.—Reuter.

S'HALONDON RADIO-PHONE

Shanghai, Feb. 4.—The first radio-telephone conversation between Shanghai and London since 1937 was held yesterday afternoon when the Chinese Government Radio Administration conducted a test preliminary to the opening of the line.

Mr T. C. Loo, managing director of the CGRA, conversed with Mr J. Palehin, engineer, of the overseas telephone department of the British Post Office, for several minutes.

The tests are to continue throughout this week except Sunday and it is hoped the service may shortly be made available to the general public.

CGRA, meanwhile, has received information from the Government Purchasing Commission in Britain that new transmitters and other equipment will be shipped to Shanghai shortly, and it is expected that upon their arrival, services will be started with other European countries and South America.

A radio-telephone circuit between Shanghai, Hongkong and Manila is also being contemplated.—Reuter.

INDIAN SOCIALIST LEADER WANTS PATEL OUSTED

New Delhi, Feb. 3.—A "Resign" call to the Indian Government "in symbolic atonement for the vile deed" of Mr Gandhi's assassination was made today by Jai Prakash Narain, the Indian Socialist Party leader. He issued the call jointly with two other members of the Party Executive.

They urged a change in the Home and Information Ministries, both held now by Sardar Vallabhai Patel, when the Government was reformed. "The Home Ministry must be entrusted to a Minister who will be able and willing to curb organisations of communal hate," they said.

The Indian Socialist Party has become prominent during the last few days because of its organisation of anti-communal demonstrations in which Narain has taken an important part.

During the demonstrations, there have been shouts of "Victory for Gandhi" and "Drive out the enemies of Nehru."

Investigations after Mr Gandhi's death have enabled the police to piece together the outline of the plot involving conspirators from all parts of the Dominion, but mainly centred in Bombay and Delhi, it was learned today.

The Deputy Inspector General of Police and a high officer of the Bombay Criminal Investigation Department flew to New Delhi today to discuss speeding up the investigations.

The police last night arrested 22 people in Bombay in a house-to-house search.

SUICIDE SQUADS
 The Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh, the militant Hindu volunteer organisation, some of whose leaders have been arrested since Mahatma Gandhi's death, were preparing suicide squads to "kill or get killed," the pro-Communist New Delhi Hindustan Times reported today.

In a long article outlining the history of the organisation, the paper said the Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh was a "secret society which does not believe in the method of the ballot box."

"Its chief aim is to create hatred against Moslems and to organise public opinion and action to that end."

The paper said that the RSS had now begun to work "on fascist lines. It altered the secret of the organisation's working, and activities were imparted only to those selected for military training and who were to collect firearms and ammunition."

All instructors of the Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh were directed by the central office to learn military drill. Special attempts were made to get Government employees in the subordinate services and members of the police into the organisation.

MOBILE COURIERS
 The Hindustan Times said the Rashtriya Swayamsevak officials sent all important news and instructions by couriers who used vehicles ranging from jeeps to cycles.

The organisation's literature emphasised the greatness of Hinduism and the chivalry of Hindu heroes, the paper stated.

The paper declared: "The Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh is the nucleus of a private army which, under the cover of physical culture, attracts men and infects them with the cry 'Hindustan is in danger.'"

The paper said that no government "can tolerate a secret society whose leader tells the inner circle 'I have the means whereby our opponents can be immediately silenced.'"

EXTREMIST ARRESTED
 New Delhi, Feb. 3.—Dispatches from Nagpur said today that the police seized the chief organiser of the Hindu extremist group linked with Gandhi's assassination after beating off a frenzied mob which tried to burn his offices there.

The government announced that the police rounded more than 300 Hindu extremists in a drive to break up groups believed to have been involved in the Gandhi assassination.

The prize catch of the fourth straight day campaign against the Hindu Mahasabha organisation and its striking arm, Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh, was reported from Nagpur, capital of India's central provinces.

The dispatches said that the top organiser of the Rashtriya-semi-military extremist youth group—was seized there. The government yesterday banned all private political rallies, reported from Nagpur, and beat off a mob which struggled resolutely to burn the place and captured the organiser who was named Golwalkar.

In Delhi the police dispersed a procession heading for the Assembly Building for a demonstration in support of demands for stern government action against the extremists.

Infuriated Democrats

Washington, Feb. 3.—Southern Democrats, described as "boiling mad" over President Truman's appeals for legislation to stamp out racial discrimination against the negro, were said today to be discussing the possibility of withdrawing their support from his candidature for re-election and naming a candidate of their own in the November elections.—Reuter.

MARSHALL PLAN OPPOSITION

Union Demonstrates

Washington, Feb. 3.—In a statement to the Senate Foreign Relations Committee today, Mr George Marshall, the Secretary of State said any move by Congress to cut America's contribution for the first 15 months of the Marshall Plan below \$6,800 million would "jeopardise the success of the programme."

While Mr Marshall defended his programme on the flank, a new attack broke out on another, with demonstrators carrying banners inscribed "The Marshall Plan Means Scramble Starve" and "Stop Ship Transfers" parading in front of the State Department.

The demonstration was organised by the National Maritime Union, who are opposed to the proposal that 500 American merchantmen be either sold or transferred to Europe.

CIO SUPPORT

In a statement filed with the Senate Foreign Relations Committee in support of the Marshall Plan, Mr Philip Murray, President of the Congress of Industrial Organisations—one of America's biggest trade unions bodies—has declared that a deep cut in the cost of the plan would be "well nigh criminal."

He said that a cut of as much as \$1,000 million in the \$6,800 million starting cost of the Marshall Plan would make it "merely a relief programme—and nothing more."

Mr Murray said that furthermore the European recovery programme should run at least until the middle of 1952, as requested by President Truman.

Mr Murray's statement, which was presented by Mr James Carey, the CIO Secretary, said: "No practical man or group could hope to bring about the needed rehabilitation in fewer than four years at the very minimum."

The statement supported the previous testimony from the American Federation of Labor, another labour leaders with the view that "the CIO firmly opposes any further transfers of vessels from the United States that to foreign registry and endorses the carriage of relief goods in American bottoms."—Reuter.

CONSPIRACY To Overthrow Government

Beirut, Feb. 3.—Explosives, military uniforms and pamphlets calling on the people to revolt were found in a search of the home of Emir Nuhad Arslan, an official Lebanese Government communiqué announced here tonight.

A conspiracy to organise a revolution had been planned in the same house, the Government learned. The case was now being investigated by the Council of Justice.

The Emir is the brother of the Minister of Defense, Emir Mejid Arslan, but enmity is known to exist between them.

The communiqué stated that the Government had frustrated an attempt to start a coup by a group led by Emir Nuhad Arslan on Sunday to attack a big city bank.

Mountain brigands attacked a car carrying Lebanese bank cash last night and exchanged fire with the guards, killing one gendarme and leaving one brigand wounded.

Commanded by Emir Nuhad Arslan, a band attacked a patrol post at Safa, but were overwhelmed by the security forces and escaped into the mountains.—Reuter.

935 Found Life Unbearable In Shanghai During 1947

Shanghai, Feb. 3.—Three hundred and fifty-one persons committed suicide in Shanghai during 1947 while 584 others had their attempts foiled, police statistics disclose.

During the year, police records show, 477 men and 458 women attempted to end their lives resulting in 351 fatalities. They included nine persons who were above 60 years old, but the largest number of persons who tried to kill themselves was in the 20-29 age bracket—451. Two hundred and twenty-two who attempted suicide during the year were in the 30-39 age bracket.

Police records also showed that 233 who tried to kill themselves were jobless and 344 were elementary school graduates.

Lingering illness caused 117 persons to end their own lives, marital

difficulties 33 others, and loss of employment 61 more. Fifteen persons tried suicide because they were denied "freedom" to marry. Poisoning was by far the most popular method chosen by the would-be suicides, 336 persons trying to remove themselves from this world via that route.

Industrial accidents claimed 97 casualties. In all, 647 were killed and 1,216 injured in 1946 in accidents and robberies, fist fights, stabbings and shootings.

There were 7,646 traffic accidents during 1947, causing death to 270 and injuries to 3,400. Five hundred ninety-four Chinese army vehicles and 181 American military vehicles were among the cars involved in accidents.

During the year, 227 bodies were picked up on the streets, mostly during the cold weather. They included 373 children, 268 men and 50 women.—United Press.

Lee Theatre

ADVANCE BOOKING OFFICE
ST. FRANCIS HOTEL, QUEEN'S ROAD, CENTRAL
BOOKING HOURS: 11.00 a.m. to 5.30 p.m. Daily.

SHOWING TO-DAY AT 2.30, 5.10, 7.15 & 9.15 P.M.

A CHILLER OF A KILLER DILLER!

FRED ALLEN
3 IN THE BAG
As Guest Stars **JACK BENNY**
DON AMECHE • **WILLIAM DENOX**
VICTOR MOORE • **RUDY VALLEE**
WINNIE BARNES • ROBERT BLENCHLEY • JERRY COLONNA

NEXT CHANGE

HUGH WILLIAMS
GRETA GYNT
MARIUS GORING
Take My Life
Produced by FRANKS & SULLIVAN
Directed by ROBERT WOOD

CENTRAL THEATRE

TO-DAY AT 2.30, 5.15, 7.15 & 9.15 P.M.

WARNERS' BLAZING LOWDOWN ON THE ESCAPED WAR-PRISONERS!

SENSATIONAL! Nazi prisoners attempt war of revenge in the Midwest!
SEE THEIR BLOOD-MAD "ESCAPE IN THE DESERT"
JEAN SULLIVAN • PHILIP DORN • ILLUMINATI • ALAN HALE • IRVING MANNING • SAMUEL S. HINDS

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FINAL SHOWING TO-DAY: 2.30—5.15—7.20—9.20 P.M.

THRILL-SHOT LIFE STORY OF THE MOST WANTED OUTLAW OF OUR TIMES!

SHOCK BY SHOCK STORY OF THE MOST NOTORIOUS BANDIT OF OUR TIMES!
DILLINGER
Edmund LOWE & Ann JEFFREYS
EDUARDO CANTILLI • VANCE LIVERANCE • TESSA COOK JR.
Produced by LOWELL LUTHER • TIERNEY GILBERT

SPECIAL FOR TO-MORROW ONLY: "DUMBO"

SHOWING TO-DAY **MAJESTIC** At 2.30, 5.20, 7.20 & 9.20 p.m.

1946's big parade of love and laughter!
Tars and Spars
Allred DRAKE • Janet BLAIR • Marc PLATT
with SID CAESAR • JEFF DONNELL
Produced by MILTON H. DREN
Directed by ALFRED E. GREEN
Screenplay by John Jacoby, Savitt Toback and Erica Dearing

NEXT CHANGE: "DOWN TO EARTH"



NEXT TURN

Every Wednesday in the Telegraph:

Sitting on the Fence

by NATHANIEL GUBBINS

"Oh, do come in," said the Sparrow's Wife to her Soul Mate, who was standing in the doorway of the Nest.

"Thank you," said the Soul Mate. "I'm the Sparrow's Wife, at home this evening."

"Not yet," said the Sparrow's Wife. "Not yet."

"Ah," said the Soul Mate, blushing on one cold cheek, "but on some important business I suppose. A committee meeting or something?"

"No," said the Sparrow's Wife. "He doesn't belong to any committee or anything like that."

"A wife," said the Soul Mate, "I find that work on the council and sitting on committees not only occupies my mind but keeps me out of a lot of mischief."

"Oh, I'm sure you wouldn't get into any mischief," said the Sparrow's Wife. "You're so good."

"Please don't say that," said the Soul Mate, with a little cough. "None of us is perfect, though some of us try a little harder than others."

"You're so modest," said the Sparrow's Wife, admiration shining in her bright eyes. "These always say the noblest people think the least of themselves. Would you like a warm sandwich?"

"Thank you," said the Soul Mate. "I have been too busy to eat much today."

"Oh, how dreadful," said the Sparrow's Wife, "but don't worry about it. I'll make you one now."

"I don't really dislike," said the Soul Mate, "but as you're so pressing."

"You don't dislike enough," said the Sparrow's Wife, pouring a generous portion. "Not like some people I know."

"Does the Sparrow still frequent the 'Tops Club'?" asked the Soul Mate.

"Frequent?" repeated the Sparrow's Wife, "he's hardly ever out of it."

"Dear, dear, dear," said the Soul Mate, "what a life he leads!"

"And when he's not there," said the Sparrow's Wife, "he's with her."

"The other Sparrow?" asked the Soul Mate.

"Yes," said the Sparrow's Wife. "You must try to hear it braver."

"You must try to hear it braver," said the Soul Mate, "You never can tell. He was so tempted. To know all is to love all."

"You say such beautiful things I want to cry," said the Sparrow's Wife, a tear rolling down her cheek.

"Please don't do that," said the Soul Mate, grabbing a warm sandwich.

"If only things had been different," said the Sparrow's Wife.

"How different?" asked the Soul Mate.

"I mean, if we had met earlier. Years ago."

"That was not to be," said the Soul Mate. "So we must bear our fate with courage and cheerfulness."

"It's easy for you," said the Sparrow's Wife. "You're strong and brave."

"No stronger or braver than others," said the Soul Mate, fushing the sandwiches.

"Even now it might be different," said the Sparrow's Wife. "I mean I have evidence."

The Soul Mate jumped to his feet and drained his glass. "Never let me hear you say that again," said the Soul Mate. "We have chosen our paths in life and we must keep to them. Besides, I have my position to think of."

"I'm sorry," said the Sparrow's Wife.

"Good night," said the Soul Mate. "Good night," said the Sparrow's Wife, fresh tears rolling down her cheeks.

Letter to a stomach

"My dear Stomach,—
It has come to my notice that you have accepted an item of underwear from an attractive lady who appears to have taken some interest in your welfare.

As you now live in a small town I advise you to give this matter the widest publicity in order to avoid the inevitable gossip peculiar to such communities.

I shall be glad to hear from you at your earliest convenience.

Yours faithfully,
N. GUBBINS.

Dear Sir,—
In reply to your undated letter I have to inform you that it is a fact that I have accepted an item of underwear from an attractive lady, though I am sure her interest in my welfare is more academic than personal.

Thanks to the publicity which you frequently give to my sufferings at your hands, this lady was kind enough to express some concern at my probable fate during the coming winter when the north-easterly gales make life on this part of the coast rather difficult for stomachs, or rather livers, who are not so young as they were and who have been treated with callous indifference over a long period.

During an autumn gale this lady (who was taking refreshment at the time) happened to notice that you were wearing an evening newspaper over me for protection.

This led to a conversation, in which she learned I was the Stomach she had read about and she immediately offered to purchase what was once known as a belly-band at a local hosiery.

For some time I thought no more of this matter, as I am aware that many impulsive but unfulfilled promises are made over refreshments. Nevertheless this lady was as good as her word, and on Thursday, last, I accepted a gift of the undergarment mentioned.

These are the facts of the case for anybody to read. I have withheld nothing, as I agree with you that, in the circumstances, the matter should have the widest publicity.

I would like to add that I have already derived much comfort from this undergarment and wish to thank the donor once again for her kindness and generosity.

Yours ever would like to be associated with these remarks.

I remain, Sir, faithfully,
Your Stomach.

Party conversation

MARGARET's father thinks the voting against the Government in the municipal elections was a protest against the price and shortage of Scotch.

"Or it might have been a protest by the Tinker's Cuss brigade or the middle classes who don't matter."

"When you remember it was the sons of the middle classes who saved the world in the Battle of Britain it's funny to think they don't matter any more."

"If we ever become a third-class power, who is the world going to blame for everything?"

"My husband says if there is ever a clash between America and Russia our only hope of survival is to remain neutral."

"That would give Lt. Col. General McCordell of the Chelsea Telephone something to go off the deep end about."

"Margaret's father's starting a Gallup poll of his own to find out the political opinion and voting strength of the Scotch whisky drinkers."

"If we remained neutral we could offer a loan to anybody who was left alone."

"My husband says the Budget will show whether Cripps is gunning for the middle classes or not."

"When a Government hesitates to do something they are told a Government's job is to govern. When they do something they are called dictators."

"Margaret's father thinks he can form a whisky drinkers' party which will sweep the country."

"They hoot at us for being in Palestine and then set up a bigger hoot if we decide to go."

MEDITERRANEAN STRATEGY

By RICHARD DENMAN

IN a rapidly-changing world there is always a danger of our being either too far behind or too far ahead of the facts. The tendency of military men to prepare for the last war but one is notorious, if exaggerated. Lately, our imaginations have been rushing forward into an atomic era where it will no longer be necessary to hew coal, and the mighty atom will do most of our work.

The difficulty of keeping a cool, middle course is apparent in another field—that of communications. We are, it is true, moving rapidly into the air age, but it is not yet possible to send vast airborne cargoes cheaply across the world, and such a development is unlikely in our lifetime.

Ships will continue to carry the bulk of the world's trade, and the sea routes will remain of vital importance to trading nations. In particular, they will continue to be of major interest to Britain, the Dominions and the Colonies, since the development of Commonwealth economic activity on a much greater scale is one of the chief prerequisites of economic recovery.

THE SUEZ CANAL

OF all the Imperial sea routes today, the most insecure is the one running through the Eastern Mediterranean. We vividly remember the delay and cost involved in the wartime run round the Cape. So far as possible, we have to guard against a repetition of that grave inconvenience in any circumstances that may arise.

It is possible, of course, that in any future conflict the Suez Canal might be cut from the air, and the route irretrievably closed. One well-directed atom bomb might well put the desert back where it came from. But it is equally possible that Suez might be threatened from the land. In any case, as during the last war, the Mediterranean and Red Sea approaches would be of crucial importance in any campaign to reopen communications.

POWER VACUUMS

STRATEGICALLY, the outlook today is by no means favourable for the Commonwealth. By the coming summer, if not before, we shall be out of Palestine, and no one can prophesy what will happen in that troubled country, what power vacuum may be created, and who will fill it. Palestine lies at the very heart of the world, and whoever controlled it would need careful watching. Cyprus is no adequate alternative, nor will it be politically possible for Britain to hold Cyprus indefinitely.

Greece, of course, is another problem. If Greece were to be won for the Russian blue, its islands would give the Slavs a dominating position in the Aegean and the Eastern Mediterranean. Turkey would be gravely threatened, and the whole Middle East might crumble. That is why, from the point of view of Imperial communications alone, the independence of Greece is a vital British interest. There is the problem, too, of the former Italian colonies—both those (Continued on Page 3)

BY THE WAY by Beachcomber

O mas d'ora que marmal a mis quejas...

THE old plaint of Garciaso de la Vega rang in my ears when I heard the man's voice say gently, "Why can't you come out on Tuesday?" And soft as falling petals in a June twilight came the reply of the rose of English girlhood, "You make me sick."

Old days in Ahahaland

IN writing of Ahaha music I cannot do worse than quote from Professor Olaf Thaxted's "Pre-Harmonic Music Among the Barbarians." He says, "Ahaha music is extremely primitive, owing to the backwardness of their civilisation and partly to the absence of orthodox musical instruments, properly so-called. Unlike the Chinese, whose pentatonic scales are based on a melodic interval of a downward fourth, the Ahahas favour a non-pentatonic scale, without combinations of sound. Their accretions of notes are in the category of prehistoric folk-melody. Of enharmonic tetrachords they know nothing, yet their rhythms are faintly trochaic."

Without comment

ANSWERING Councillor Stone, who asked why the Entertainment and Publicity Committee had turned down the offer of a Gilt Concert, the chairman (Councillor Squibb) commented:

"The fee was £1,000, and no man's voice is worth that amount." (News Item.)

Disraeli's hat for the nation

ONE lion said to another at the Zoo: "I don't think much of this meat they're giving us."

"Sh!" said the other, whispering, "We don't want them to know that we can talk."

NANCY True to His Word



